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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATES RELATIONS SERVICE
Washington, D. C.

Office of Extension Work
North and West

EXTRACTS FROM AGENTS' REPORTS ON WOOL CONSERVATION

Miss Bertha KnightBuena Vista CountyCLOTHING

Number of questionnaires received150
Number of garments repaired175
Number of garments recut172
Number of garments remodeled441

WOMAN'SCHILDREN'S

Dresses 101
Coats 44
Hats 34
Waists 6
Skirts 52
Furs 6

Belgium Work \$200
Man's Overcoat 1

Sweater 3
Blankets 3

Dresses 110
Coats 56
Petticoats 42
Shoes 38
Hose
Suits 39
Shirts 26
Underwear 98
Hats 15
Trousers 17

Estimate of Money Saved..... \$3742.47
Estimate of Yards of Wool Saved 875

About 15 women gathered at a private home in Sioux Rapids. I gave the women a talk on wool saving and clothing Conservation. The woman at whose home we were then went up into her attic and brought down old mens' suits, old dresses, old coats, and old skirts. We immediately set to work cutting out boys' suits, little girls' dresses and making a woman's suit into a dress. The result was, two suits were made into dresses, two little boys' suits were made, one coat was remodeled, one little girls' dress was made, and old fur cape was made into a scarf.

Miss Mary B. RichardsonCalhoun CountyWool Saving Campaign

A wool survey was made in which about 1300 questionnaires were sent out; 823 were returned and showed the following results;

767 Garments needing small repair
739 Garments to be re-cut
216 yards remnants
639 lbs. rags.

Arrangements were made with the local rag dealers to call and buy up the rags where people could not take time to bring them to the Red Cross rooms for shipment.

Working centers were established in Rockwell City and Lake City, This month was to be given over chiefly to wool saving work. The Woman's Club in Rockwell City cooperated by taking charge of the work in the city. One of the bankers donated the use of rooms in his building, and the ladies fitted it up with sewing machine, tables, chairs, magazines, etc. The rooms were to be kept open four days each week and the following program was planned:

Tuesdays- <u>Children's Clothes & Dyeing (Girls)</u>	
Demonstrators	
Mrs. Burnham	Mrs. Hartley
Mrs. Stevenson	Mrs. Hunt
Wednesdays- <u>Misses' Clothes</u>	
Mrs. Cooper	Mrs. Thomas
Mrs. Busch	Mrs. Evans
Thursdays <u>Children's Clothes (Boys)</u>	
Mrs. Thomas	Mrs. Hallock
Mrs. Light	
Fridays <u>Women's Clothes</u>	
Mrs. Palmer	Mrs. Noel
Mrs. Yant	

The work was interfered with by the quarantine for influenza which closed up everything. The women were not to be stopped by this but kept on working in their homes and an exhibit, which attracted much attention and set many people to working, was placed in one of the store windows:

Window Exhibit

1. Child's dress made from flour sack and scraps of striped blue gingham.
2. Child's dress made from two old coats (Men's)
3. Child's dress made from old jacket of woman's suit, trimmed with shepherd's plaid from old gray dress, touched up with red braid and small brass buttons.
4. Child's petticoat made from old crocheted afghan.
5. Child's petticoat made from old black stockings, bottom finished with band of red satin.
6. Boy's suit made from pair of old trousers.
7. Boy's suit made from pair of old trousers and old white skirt.
8. Two aprons made from men's shirts.
9. Bloomers for child made from old flannel shirt.
10. Girl's dress made from old skirt and silk waist.
11. Child's coat from old eiderdown tea jacket and lined with old blanket
12. Child's petticoat made from old skirt.
13. Woman's skirt made from lining of old coat.
14. Girl's dress made from old blue serge and trimmed with lining from an old coat.
15. Child's tights made from old stockings.
16. Child's dress made from old shirts.

In Lake City a room of the Library which was already fitted up was used for the work. The following program was planned:

Children's Clothing

Demonstrators

Oct.	11	Mrs. J. B. Smith, Mrs. McNeal
"	17	Mrs. C. H. Green, Mrs. W. I. Crozier
"	24	Mrs. Smith, Mrs. McNeal
"	31	Mrs. G. L. Pray, Mrs. G. W. Bawden

Dyeing

Oct.	15	Mrs. J. Chapman
"	29	Mrs. Kitty Brady

Women's Clothing

Oct.	18	Miss Mina Wood
"	25	Mrs. C. H. Lundstedt
Nov.	1	Miss Jessie Frisbie

Here, too, the work was cut short by the quarantine, but the women have continued work in the homes.

Many of these demonstrators were local dressmakers who volunteered their time for this work. Here also while the women were glad to get the help of the demonstrators, they preferred to come and get suggestions or help in cutting but do the work at home. Some did not like the idea of taking their work to the room at all. Nevertheless we feel that much has been accomplished. Of the wool saving reports sent out but 55 were returned, owing to quarantine conditions. These reports show that

240 garments were made over for home use

80 garments contributed to local charities

127 garments contributed to war relief.

Total amount saved to the county, \$2,030. The estimated saving to the entire county is \$36,000.

Many home visits were made where the women brought out their dresses, coats, hats, and other garments and got help in planning and cutting.

Miss Anna S. Olsen

Cedar County

Clothing Conservation

Plan of Campaign

1. Campaign planned at Director's Meeting, September 19th.
2. Those not present were personally informed by those present.
3. Copies of the Clothing Project were mailed to each township and district chairman.
4. Distribution of questionnaires.
 - a. Home Demonstration Agent to township chairmen.
 - b. Township chairmen called meeting of district chairmen and gave questionnaires to them.
 - c. District chairmen to women of school district.

5. Information centers established wherever possible, and local demonstration workers secured.
6. Return of questionnaires.
 - a. Women to district chairmen
 - b. District chairmen to township chairmen
 - c. Township chairmen to Home Demonstration Agent.
7. Special Meetings.
 - a. Lecture and exhibit by Miss Cation of Ames Nov. 14 - 16
 - b. Conservation program and Style Show-Conservation Week.

Conservation Agencies.

1. Newspapers, churches, schools and bulletins - publicity.
2. Local demonstrators - information centers
3. Camp-fire girls - distribution of questionnaires in towns.
4. Boy Scouts - Collecting of rags.
5. Women's Committee of the Council of Defense - Conservation Week.
6. Clubs - Conservation meetings.

Difficulties Encountered

1. Quarantine for Influenza
2. Poor train service in county.

Wool Survey Report (Incomplete returns because of "Flu")

1. Number of garments needing such repairs as collars, cuffs, binding worn edges or replacing buttons256
2. Number of garments which must be recut.....555
3. Remnants of unused wool cloth.....234
4. Wool rags for remanufacture213 lbs.

Final Report of Clothing Conservation Campaign

1. Number of questionnaires filled out and returned324
2. Number of garments which have been repaired for use1424
3. Number of garments which have been recut794
4. Number of garments conserved for home use2218
5. Number of garments given to local charity275
6. Number of garments given to war relief327
7. Total number of garments conserved2820
8. Number of yards of wool cloth saved1987
9. Amount of money saved on garments\$8952.58
10. Amount of money saved on hats\$1300.15
11. Total amount of money saved on wearing apparel\$9260.15

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1911

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Miss Marie Anthony

Clay County

During the month of October wool saving was particularly emphasized in Clay County. Four hundred questionnaires were distributed. The last week of October was set aside as Wool Survey Week.

The result of the survey was as follows:

Questionnaires returned-----	319
Questionnaires reporting nothing-----	25
Number of garments repaired-----	1684
Number of garments recut-----	1446
Number yards wool saved -----	2248

An exhibit of made-over clothes was placed in the window of a local store in Spencer. Fourteen garments were exhibited, and many more were offered. I have found that the women of Clay County are making over clothes much more extensively than I thought. The two windows were attractively arranged with appropriate posters attached to each.

One child's outfit was especially attractive. It had been worn two seasons as a suit, three as a dress, and then was made into a beautiful little coat, hood, and muff. The hood, muff, collar and cuffs were of plush from the trimmings of the dress.

One child's dress was made from goods that had been purchased fifteen years ago, but it made a nice dress when trimmed with plaid.

At least the exhibit attracted attention for since then I have had many phone calls concerning the possibility of making over clothes, and for suggestions.

A demonstration team is being trained by Miss Mary Stevenson, the High School Home Economics teacher. I have met with them several times. We are waiting for the quarantine to lift before they give the final demonstration to the public before competing with another team of this district for the trip to the Mid-West Horticultural Show in Des Moines in December.

I have found the Home Economics teachers over the county a great help. Two of them helped in arranging the exhibit of made-overs. Each have promised to put on exhibits in the communities where they teach during Thrift Week, and as soon as school opens they are planning on holding a fuel saving demonstration before the women of their respective towns.

Mrs. Ellen S. Sterling

Delaware County

Several postponed demonstrations by a tailor, tailoress, and furmaker will be given during the next two weeks. I have arranged for a demonstration or talk of some kind in my office every Saturday afternoon. A teacher or someone else will have a story hour in another room where the children may be left while the mothers come to the meetings. The idea is to get the women, especially from the country, into the habit of coming to the office every week to see what is going on.

Wool Survey

Sometime ago questionnaires relative to the wool supply in the homes were sent out through Delaware County, in accordance with the request of the Government. The quarantine has delayed the completion of the survey, but up-to-date, the following data has been received.

Number of garments to be made over -----652
Number of garments to be repaired -----389
Number of garments to be made into children's coat---172
Number of garments to be made into children's dresses; or
suits -----303
Number of pounds of wool rags to be sold -----234

The report based on the questionnaire will indicate to the Government the amount of wool available for domestic use this winter. By careful attention to the using up of all old materials, Delaware County should not need to buy any new materials until the textile situation is relieved. Several women indicated on the questionnaires the fact that they had old garments enough to supply their families from one to two years. One card noted twenty-two garments to be made over, another twenty, and another seventeen. These were exceptions. The majority showed an average of two or three garments which were to be remodelled in each family.

The Home Demonstration Agent wishes to thank the block sergeants and their assistants for their promptness and thoroughness in the Wool Survey work. Many thanks are due, also, to the women of the county for the care and interest with which they made out their questionnaires, thus giving the Home Demonstration Agent the exact data required for her government report.

Uncle Sam's Home Soldiers.

A Sewing Club of mothers and daughters was organized at the West Manchester School, Friday afternoon, by Mrs. Sterling, Home Demonstration Agent, assisted by the teachers and Mrs. Fred Miller. Uncle Sam's Home Soldiers was chosen as the name of the club. Mrs. Tyler was elected captain, Mrs. Miller, lieutenant, and Miss Mildred Pope, orderly. The club had its first regular meeting Saturday afternoon in Miss Wilson's room at the school house. The sewing on of buttons, darning of stockings, patching and mending were the problems taken up. The meetings will be held every Saturday at two-thirty. The membership is twenty-six and much enthusiasm is shown.

Miss Lucy I. Cockburn

Des Moines County

A War Shop or Salvage Shop was opened in the city of Burlington where the left over garments and old rags were collected. When this shop was opened the ladies who had charge of it thought that it would only be opened for perhaps two or three weeks. They have now been running it for five weeks and it can at least be run as long again if not longer. While they have handled all sorts of salvage material, yet the clothing has been the greatest attraction. They have taken in, in all, sixteen hundred dollars' worth up to date and approximately half of that has been for clothing.

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This shop has been a good thing in various ways. First, it has put a very large amount of wool into circulation which otherwise would have been left in the attics and store rooms for years to come, as it has been in the past.

Second, it has helped the poor people who could not afford to buy new clothing. Proof of this has been shown in a great many remarks which have been made. One lady said that her children had better underwear and would be more warmly clothed this year than she had been able to clothe them in the past three or four years. Several business men have made the remark that such a shop should be open not only in war times but in peace times.

Third, the money derived from this salvage material is helping beneficent institutions, as the money is being used for Red Cross, for support of refugee children, and for reconstruction work.

This shop was used as a general information center as well as a salvage shop. Bulletins, recipes and exhibits of conservation ideas were to be found there every day. Once a week the home demonstration agent or a local demonstrator was there to give suggestions, in regard to the making of clothing, the conservation of food, conservation of clothing, etc. Here I was able to meet a great many people that I could not reach in the community clubs. Some problem would come up in a conversation with them whereby I could arrange a definite time to go to their homes to help them with the problem.

I find the home work gives the greatest opportunities for creating interest in the home demonstration department of the farm bureau.

Miss Dorothy R. Munson

Henry County

At a directors' meeting it was decided to carry on this campaign in each community as might be thought advisable after discussing the work with the director.

The following series of articles on conservation of clothing were put in the weekly papers: The Wool Situation; After the Survey of Wool Garments, What Next? Dyeing, A War Time Aid; Care of Clothing Saves Money; To Remove the Shine from Woolens; Textile Conservation for Patriotic Housewives.

From the Council of Defense Chairman in each township a complete list of the women's organizations in the county was secured. The attached letter was sent out to the president of all these organizations and two of the attached questionnaire enclosed. The president was asked to get two representative women to fill out these questionnaires for their family and return them to the office by October 31 so that an estimate of the wool saving in Henry County could be made. Just at this time the quarantine for influenza was put on and has been on practically ever since so that few meetings have been held since that time; however thirty-two questionnaires have been returned, reporting 74 garments needing repairs, 105 garments to be recut, 29½ yards of wool cloth and 86 pounds of rags for remanufacture. This makes an average per family of 2.3 garments needing repairs; 3.2 garments to be recut; 1.19 yards unused wool cloth; 2.6 pounds rags to be sold. Many of the ladies wrote that their remnants of unused wool had already been used in making comforts and articles for the Belgians.

In one of the townships thirteen women met with the home demonstration agent to decide on their line of action in clothing conservation. One woman brought an old skirt and coat which were planned over into a good winter dress. Another had a coat which she wanted planned over for her and one woman had on some cutover stockings which proved of interest to all as she explained her method. This group of women decided to meet one afternoon a week and fix over old clothing for some children there in town who were in need of clothes and whose mothers were so busy with their large families that they have little time to sew. Arrangements were made with one of the mothers who gave her permission for such work. The report from this small group of women is as follows: made from old shirts, two little Mother Hubbard dresses; skirts of waists for baby; one little boy's waist. Out of stockings, two petticoats. Two coats were made over and one trimmed with a collar, belt and buttons made from an old velvet dress and given to two girls ten and twelve years old. One old suit ripped up, turned, dyed, and made over into a good house dress.

In Salem a get-together meeting was called by the township chairman of the home demonstration work, of the presidents of the women's organizations in the towns. Fifteen women met together to talk over the clothing situation and arrangements were made for a meeting on the removal of stains and dyeing. This meeting was held at the school house and was attended by the girls in the school as well as the women.

Three demonstrations were given on dyeing and removing stains. Three talks on clothing conservation were given. A window exhibit of made-over clothing was displayed in one of the large store windows in town. One of the ladies in Mt. Pleasant obtained some made-over clothing from some of her friends and some very interesting garments were exhibited. The window display represented a saving of 55 yards of material and \$140. A made-over stocking was displayed on a foot form beside a poster giving pattern and directions. This exhibit was advertised by a display of posters around town for several days before the exhibit. These posters were made by high school students under the direction of one of the teachers. These high school people constitute our poster committee.

Two towns in the county were planning on exhibits of made-over clothing to be held in a vacant store which we were planning on keeping open for a week as a sort of clothing conservation centre, but these arrangements had to be given up on account of the influenza.

Miss Irene Wheeler

Anamosa, Iowa,
Jones County.

WOOL CONSERVATION PROJECT:

1. Plan of Organization.

In making the wool survey each township chairman was made responsible for getting the report from her territory. I arranged for this with each chairman in a personal conference at her house since the busy times made it impossible to get the directors together at any one place.

2. Methods employed:

Each township chairman makes clear to her school district chairmen the plan for the wool survey which she was asked to make and return to her township leader, who in turn forwarded the complete report to me. In all of the towns and in a few rural districts the school children made the survey. The County Superintendent of Schools is one of my very best cooperators, not only in connection with work pertaining to the schools, but every line which our organization is pushing. All cooperators for the wool saving project were provided with a narrative account of the scarcity of wool, explaining the Why and Wherefore and in every locality this information was used in four-minute speeches.

To make the survey clear, and to interest the children in the pride of patches I went in to the grade rooms and the high schools and presented the subject leaving the children several rhymes and songs for the occasion.

No. rooms or groups of children addressed -----638
No. pupils talks to -----1710

Later when several different youngsters with pride stopped me on the street to explain how old and how patched their clothes were, I felt that the lesson taught had actually borne seed.

3. Results Accomplished:

A. Result of 201 surveys.

1. No. garments needing such repairs as collars, cuffs, bindings, etc.-	170
2. No. garments which must be recut,-	245
3. Remnants of unused wool cloth, yds.-	143
4. Wool to be sold as rags for remanufacture, lbs.-	322
B. Estimate no. yds. wool saved-	1340
C. Estimate of money saved-	\$2,479.00

The wool survey work was delayed just about six weeks because of the State and local quarantine.

Miss Vida Norman

Pocahontas County.

The first week I held two meetings before the quarantine was put on. One was a double meeting at the Des Moines Con. School, lectures in high schools, and a meeting with women in Red Cross room, and a meeting with the Rolfe Red Cross. The Domestic Science teacher at the Des Moines Consolidated School is teaching her girls to make over wool dresses for themselves. When these are finished she said she would be willing to have them sew for Civilian Relief. The Women's Red Cross organization of the same place expressed their willingness also to sew for this purpose on days when they had no Red Cross work to do.

I wrote to all of the study clubs in the county telling them of the desire of the demonstration agent to help them and I had two calls at once asking my presence at their first meeting, the first week in November.

I sent out wool questionnaires to the country school teachers and distributed some out through Red Cross organizations and county chairmen.

Report of Wool Questionnaires for Pocahontas County:

Number of questionnaires received -		170
Number reporting "Nothing"-		50
Garments fixed and reworn-		188
Garments yet to be remade-		222
Garments all ready made over -		342
Women's	Suits-	17
	Dresses-	81
	Coats	225
Children's	Coats-	59
	Dresses-	81
	Suits-	75
Remnants of Wool used-		35 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards
Total number of yards saved-		944 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards
Money saved-		\$2838.50
Questionnaires reporting Wool for Belgians-		19

Miss May Gunderson

Pottawatomie County

Lecture demonstrations were given in twelve communities to encourage the use of all wool found in the homes in the county. Three country school teachers in one township became cooperators and helped with the wool survey. Five Red Cross chapters took up the wool survey in connection with their soliciting for the Belgians.

One Red Cross chapter told the director for her township that they were "too busy to fool with wool conservation." However, the director knew one of the workers in that chapter. We went to her home in the morning of the day the Red Cross was to meet. I explained the wool situation to her and she promised to talk about it at the meeting. Then we went to the school houses and I gave a talk to the children about saving wool, and wearing made-over wool dresses to help get the Kaiser. Mothers heard wool conservation at the Red Cross meeting, then again in the evening when the children came from school. Some of our best reports came from that township.

Miss Mildred Wood

Webster County

The wool survey was made in the county by the Township Chairmen of the Women's Division of the Farm Bureau and their committee members. In Ft. Dodge, the Chairman of the Men's War Service Council called his captains and sergeants together (about 250 of them) and following an explanation of the wool saving project by the home demonstration agent, the men agreed to distribute and collect the Wool Survey Cards. They felt that this was a worth while piece of war work which could be "put over" with little effort by their organization. In this way, practically every housekeeper in the county was reached.

Clothing Centers

Plans were made to open Clothing Centers in different parts of the county during the last two weeks in October where those indicating that they wanted help in planning and cutting garments could receive it. A

number of meetings had been arranged for Miss Cation but because of the quarantine these were called off, and the Clothing Center work had to be postponed. For this reason the statement of the number of garments made and the estimate of money saved will be given in the November report.

The Clothing work has been well started by some of the Township Chairmen. In Newark Township, the Chairman selected a committee of two to work with the home demonstration agent in helping those who indicated on the wool survey reports that they wanted assistance. Only a few came to the first meeting in Vincent and it seemed at first as though little would be accomplished, for the problems brought were soon disposed of. One of the ladies present had brought an old coat of hers and suggested that we spend the rest of the afternoon making a child's coat for a mother who has a large family and little time to sew. As we worked, a number of others dropped in and volunteered to give a number of garments to be made over for other members of this family. Since then the Township Chairman reports that a number of garments have been made at the Center for this family, and assistance in cutting has been given to others. Following this meeting a country meeting was arranged by one of the district committee members present at the Vincent meeting in another part of the township to reach the women who could not come to town. A Ft. Dodge dressmaker volunteered her services with the home demonstration agent to this meeting and gave some fine suggestions on sewing principles as well as helping with definite problems. A third community member in that township is now anxious for a meeting in her community for those indicating on their reports that they would like help. I mention this township to show the results that sometimes come from a small meeting and to show how the wool surveys have formed the basis for follow-up work.

